Indianapolis Indiana

Sunday Sept 28th 1862

Dear Lydia,

We have arrived at this place, - got here at one o'clock, without delay or accident, but now we are obliged to lay over until one o'clock, to night, the cause of it is that this road has sent down since last evening Eight Regiments and this Locomotives have all gone down on this Section of the road, and we cannot moove until they return. Our journey this far has been devoid of incident, and also of anything of particular interest, but I will mention the most noticable features of our journey.

We arrived in Chicago about four o'clock yesterday, and immediately transfered our goods to the Michigan Central, but did not moove until nine o'clock.

We arranged ourselves in the most Comfortable position, and tried to sleep and with some success. - I think I slept half of the night which was quite as well as I expected

We went direct to Michigan City, and were there switched on to this road, running direct to Louisville, or the town on this side of the river,

We awoke this morning finding ourselves passing through a large tract of very low and marshy ground with here and there a Squatters and one in a while a little village, but they were few and far between

At nine Oclock we reached Lafayette a pleasantly located town and one of considerable importance, Containing, I should judge about five thousand inhabitants

The country, after having left this place presented a very different appearance, being more uneven, traversed occasionly by small streams, and the most of the way quite heavily wooded, with beech, maple, Oak and Lyon, resembling in a great degree the wooded fields of New England, and here we found ~~great~~ Evidences of Enterprise, and Comparitive wealth but the majority of the houses were of logs and very small, also some indications of a few old Settlers, in the shape of full grown Orchards, which are now hanging full,

We came through one large opening in

in the timber which was all planted to corn and contained, at the least calculation One thousand acres; It was cut but very small, and looked very innocent of either plow or hoe, since it was put into the ground, — I saw quite a number of small fields of winter wheat, which was out of the ground about two inches

This town is the Capitol of the State and is decidedly a pretty place, and is said to contain about ten thousand people

There are some very fine buildings here and altogether the town wears an air of neatness, order, and refinement very pleasing to the Eye, there are here one regiment of infantry and a part of one of Cavalry, and also one battery

It is very gratifying to us Soldiers to witness the manifestations of patriotism and gratitude, that have been given us along the whole line, Expressing itself in a variety of ways, and it occurs to us as a little Singular, that the warmest and most enthusiastic reception is met with from the Ladies and we can account for it in no other way than that the men feel a little ashamed that they are not with us, and are inclined to heap this praise

I anticipated a very unpleasant time riding in the car with our goods, but found it decidedly preferable to riding in a coach, for in here we can change our position to please ourselves and last evening we arranged our cot beds so that we were quite comfortable.

We are now one hundred & sixteen miles from Michigan City, and one hundred & ten to our place of destination. The remainder of our journey will be made in six hours after start if nothing happens — we will have to change at Nine Lines and go over to Louisville in a ferry boat! — I shall mail this before we reach there if I have an opportunity.

I am well and feeling first rate with the exception of being tired.

I realized on parting with you on this mission, so unmindful as it must be, and of such an uncertain termination, emotions entirely new to me. Still I do not regret that I have enlisted and never have for a moment, but I find it calls up a different set of thoughts and feelings, as yet hardly definable. I wish you to make yourself as comfortable and happy as possible and borrow no trouble from what the future has in store for us, for I am not, but shall do my duty, and take it as it comes, be it whatever it may — You must take this letter without revision, and I hope to have something to say in my next of greater interest — It is reported here that Buell is now in Louisville and has in camp there One hundred & fifty thousand men, but suppose he only awaiting the arrival of the 75th when he will Clean out Bragg and "Co" there are short orders — It is now after nine P.M. and we start early in the morning, so good night. Yours good for nothing husband

Chas